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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/017,927	12/18/2001	Takashi Yazu	32014-177339	1477
20987	7590	07/26/2005	EXAMINER	
VOLENTINE FRANCOS, & WHITT PLLC ONE FREEDOM SQUARE 11951 FREEDOM DRIVE SUITE 1260 RESTON, VA 20190				ARMSTRONG, ANGELA A
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
				2654

DATE MAILED: 07/26/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/017,927	YAZU, TAKASHI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Angela A. Armstrong	2654	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 December 2001.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/18/01.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. A substitute specification in proper idiomatic English and in compliance with 37 CFR 1.52(a) and (b) is required. The substitute specification filed must be accompanied by a statement that it contains no new matter.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

3. Regarding claim 1, applicant claims "a first detection module that detects a paragraph section having a repetition of a plurality of kinds of a symbol based on a character column in one line", without particularly pointing out if it is a paragraph section of text, or if the character column is in one line of the paragraph, all text (if text), etc, for further prosecution, the Examiner will interpret the paragraph section and the one line refers to sections of text. It is unclear as to what a repetition of a plurality of kinds of a symbol refers to, for further prosecution, the Examiner will interpret that the limitation refers to any series of adjacent characters. The limitations of claim 1 also include "a voice synthesis module for performing voice synthesis for a rest of character column deleting the symbol character column interval form the character line." It is unclear as to what applicant refers to as "a rest of character column deleting the symbol

character column from the character line.” For further prosecution, the Examiner will interpret the limitation to mean that certain symbol characters are deleted/ignored in the text and the portions not deleted/ignored are actually output via the voice synthesis module.

4. Similarly, claims 2-8 are also generally narrative and indefinite, and fail to conform with current U.S. practice. Claims 1-8 appear to be a literal translation into English from a foreign document and are replete with grammatical and idiomatic errors.

5. Claims 1 and 4 recite the limitation “the symbol character column interval.” There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claims.

Claims 1 and 4 recite the limitation “the character line.” There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claims.

Claims 2 and 3 recite the limitation “said paragraph section character column.” There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claims.

Claims 2 and 3 recite the limitation “one unit.” There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claims.

Claim 3 recites the limitation “the last of a character column.” There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 3 recites the limitation “the n-kind of symbol.” There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 6 recites the limitation “said count value.” There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Luther (US Patent No. 5,555,343).

Luther discloses a text parser for use with a text-to-speech converter, which accepts a text stream and parses the text stream to detect non-spoken characters and spoken characters.

7. Regarding claim 1, Luther teaches a first detection module that detects a paragraph section having a repetition of a plurality of kinds of a symbol based on a character column in one line (abstract; Figure 3; col. 5, line 42 to col. 8, line 24); and a voice synthesis module for performing voice synthesis for a rest of character column deleting the symbol character column interval form the character line (abstract; Figure 3; col. 5, line 42 to col. 8, line 24).

Regarding claim 2, Luther teaches the paragraph section character column is comprised of a character column pattern in which a pattern of one unit is repeated at a plurality of times as definition of m-symbol column constituted by n-kind of symbol as one unit (abstract; Figure 3; col. 5, line 42 to col. 8, line 24).

Regarding claim 3, Luther teaches said paragraph section character column is comprised of a special one kind of symbol of the n-kind of symbol is added to the last of a character column in which a pattern of one unit is repeated at a plurality of times as definition of m symbol column constituted by n-kind of symbol as one unit (abstract; Figure 3; col. 5, line 42 to col. 8, line 24).

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Yamada (US Patent No. 6,411,931) discloses character data transformer and transforming method, which converts character data into audio data.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Angela A. Armstrong whose telephone number is 571-272-7598. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 11:30-8:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richemond Dorvil can be reached on 571-272-7602. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Angela A. Armstrong
Angela A Armstrong
Examiner
Art Unit 2654

AAA
July 21, 2005